

IN THE MATTER OF AN INVESTIGATION
INTO THE WORKINGS OF THE INSTITUTION
FOR THE BLIND AT BRANTFORD.

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Under and by authority of the Commission I have directed
to me, to enquire into and report upon the workings of the
Institution for the Blind at Brantford, and to make such other
enquiry as I might deem necessary, I have the honor to
report as follows;

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

made by

A. J. Russell Snow,

Commissioner.

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IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

THE CHILDREN OF THE ESTATE OF

WILLIAM L. BROWN, DECEASED

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

County of

San Diego

Superior Court

To

His Honour

William Mortimer Clarke, K. C. L. L. D.

Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Ontario:

Sir:-

Under and by virtue of your Commission directed to me, to enquire into and report upon the workings of the Institute for the Blind at Brantford, and to make such other enquiry as I might deem necessary, I have the honor to report as follows;

First. On the opening of the enquiry on the twenty-eighth day of November, 1906, Mr. Thomas Truss, the former instructor in willow work at the Institute, represented by Mr. W. S. Brewster, K. C., preferred eighteen serious charges against the present principal, with respect to his management of the Institute, an original copy of which said charges accompany this report.

Secondly. Before proceeding to hear and determine these charges I directed that an original copy thereof should be personally served upon the principal, which was accordingly done; and after a copy of the charges had been served upon him, I asked Mr. Gardiner (in view of the serious nature of the charges) if he was prepared to go on with the enquiry, and he replied that he had no objection; I then proceeded with the enquiry and to take evidence upon oath.

Charge One.

"That the said H. F. Gardiner is not a fit and
"proper person to be principal of such an
"institution, for reasons hereinafter shown".

Charge Two.

"Prior to his appointment to his present position, he had no experience in educational work, or in work pertaining to the education of the Blind; he has since not visited any Institution, or done what he could to familiarize himself with the workings and fit himself for his present duties".

Upon this second charge, I find on the evidence that Mr. Gardiner took the usual Arts Course, at Albert College, Belleville; that he had two and a half years' experience when a young man as a teacher; that he speaks five languages, namely, Latin, Greek, French, German and English, with facility; that he has been an industrious student of History and Biography, and has written a book of 560 pages on "Otomotology"; that he has delivered scores of lectures and addresses to historical and church societies, and has been a successful newspaper writer. But high literary attainments are not the only necessary qualifications to conduct an institution of this kind; the Principal must have a practical education and good administrative capacity, and it is in this latter respect that I find he is deficient, and it would have been a great benefit to the school had he, shortly after his appointment, visited similar schools for the Blind in the United States, and some of our own educational institutions, in order to familiarize and fit himself for the general administration and carrying on of the work.

I may add that since his appointment he has attended a Convention at St. Louis, in 1904, of those interested in the education of the Blind, and took a prominent part therein; he has also obtained and perused reports from almost all the schools for the Blind on this continent, as well as in Europe, and has endeavored by means

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of a theoretical education to fit himself for the duties devolving upon him.

Charge
Three.

"In a month after his appointment his unfitness for the position began to show itself in the lessening of the discipline that had previously existed in the Institution. The pupils were allowed to visit the City, free from restraint and from precautions which were previously found necessary to be made, and as a consequence they found their way into hotel bars and cigar stores, and became intoxicated and disorderly".

I find on this charge that Mr. Gardiner does not believe in what he terms the "spy system"; on the contrary, he thinks the better principle is to trust the pupils.

Under the Rules and Regulations, male pupils have leave to visit the City after study or work hours, but they must always return in time for meals and Roll-Call, and in no case be absent after sundown, and no pupil is to resort to the neighborhood of the railway station, nor enter hotels, taverns, or other places of public entertainment, except when in charge of visiting friends or relatives.

When Mr. Gardiner took charge of the Institution, there were a number of students who had practically attained manhood, eleven in all; some of these pupils were allowed to go to the City free from restraint, and as a consequence they found their way into cigar stores, visited hotel bars, and became intoxicated, and visited houses of ill-fame.

Charge Four.

"Formerly the doors of the Institution were
 "locked at nine o'clock in the evening; that Mr.
 "Gardiner abolished this rule, and as a con-
 "-sequence there was an association of the male
 "and female pupils which should not have been
 "allowed".

The Rules require the building to be closed for the night at ten o'clock, and not nine o'clock. I find that this rule has been enforced, and that there has not been any improper association of the male and female pupils.

Charge Five.

"On one occasion three pupils were allowed to
 "go to the City on Saturday afternoon, that they
 "did not return until Monday morning, having spent
 "the time at a well-known disorderly house".

The evidence is that in September, 1903, three of the pupils asked leave to pay a visit to a friend's house in the City. At that time Mr. Gardiner had only known those boys a short time, and granted their request. It appears that they visited a friend's house, and there met two girls, and one of the pupils subsequently went with them to Paris, accompanied by another young man. On their return the same night they stayed at a farmhouse, and on the following Sunday returned to their friend's house, and remained there Sunday night, going back to the Institution on Monday. Mr. Gardiner severely reprimanded the boys for their misconduct, and the evidence before me discloses the fact that the house which they visited was not a disorderly house, but was the home of respectable humble people living in the City of Brantford.

Charge Six.

"The rule compelling attendance at divine
 "service was abolished, and a failure to attend
 "such service was the result".

Under the Rules and Regulations, the pupils must, unless their parents or guardians express a wish to the contrary, attend the church to which they are entered as belonging, and a list of absentees from church is required to be furnished by the head master to the Principal. This rule was very strictly enforced by the late Mr. Dymond.

Mr. Gardiner has not required this rule to be observed, and in consequence some of the pupils framed excuses to avoid going to church, and did avoid attending divine worship, preferring to loiter around the building and grounds and engage in the prohibited habit of smoking and chewing tobacco.

It is in evidence that Mr. Truss' Bible Class, after Mr. Gardiner's appointment, diminished one third in number under various pretexts and excuses for non-attendance, which pretexts and excuses I regret to state were not discouraged by the Principal.

Charge Seven.

"The rule against smoking was suspended, and
 "the result was a speedy growth of the habit among
 "young and old. On one occasion as many as
 "twenty boys were seen smoking tobacco, spitting,
 "and making the workshop filthy".

Under the Rules and Regulations, the use of tobacco in any form by pupils, either on or off the premises of the Institution is prohibited.

There is evidence that twenty of the students smoked and chewed tobacco. They were allowed to expectorate tobacco juice around the workshop; in fact, the tobacco habit became a veritable nuisance to Mr. Truss, who had charge of the workshop. It appears that Mr. Truss reprimanded some of the

boys for this filthy habit, and one of the boys told him that his days in the Institution were numbered, that Mr. Gardiner had no use for him. It further appears that the older boys got permission to visit the City, where they would buy tobacco and give it to the younger ones. Mr. Truss named a number of the boys who were in the habit of using tobacco. He complained to Mr. Gardiner, and Mr. Gardiner informed him that the older boys might use tobacco, and that he would rather have them use it openly the way they were doing, than on the sly.

According to the evidence, Mr. Gardiner approved of the older boys being permitted to use tobacco, so long as they did not teach the little ones similar habits.

I find on the whole that this regulation has not been observed, and that it is extremely dangerous to permit smoking in or around the Institution, it not being sufficiently provided with fire-escapes.

Charge Eight.

"One of the pupils suffered from a bad
"disorder, and the principal allowed this pupil
"to associate with other pupils, and when remons-
"-trated with made light of the matter".

Mr. Truss was suspicious that one of the boys had a loathsome disease, and called Mr. Gardiner's attention to his condition; the attending physician made an examination, and reported that the boy was not cleanly in his habits, and shortly afterwards the boy left the Institution.

Charge Nine.

"The principal on another occasion purchased
"a large quantity of willows not required for the

"use of the Institution. He failed when requested
 "to send pupils fit for the work to assist in
 "peeling the willow, and the Instructor had to
 "employ, and pay out of his own funds, pupils to do
 "this work".

I find on the evidence that a considerable quantity of willow was purchased from Mr. Raymond. The principal's excuse for failure to send boys to Mr. Truss was that none were asked to peel the willow. I find that it was the principal's duty to have seen that the willow was peeled after he had made the purchase, and knew that it was on the premises, he being in charge of the Institution, and Mr. Truss being merely a subordinate.

Charge Ten.

"The principal uses gross, vulgar and improper
 "language to the pupils and other persons".

There is evidence of Mr. Gardiner having used language in the assembly hall, at roll-call, not becoming a gentleman occupying his position, such as referring to the boys who visited the laundry and were engaged in talking to the laundresses as "blackguards", and on another occasion he referred to the boys' attention to some of the girls as "puppy-dog courtship".

At another time when Mr. Truss was remonstrating with him relative to the boys and girls being permitted to remain out late in the evenings upon the grounds, he replied to Mr. Truss that he "did not believe in putting a girl in a glass case to preserve her virtue". It is true that he made the latter remarks when Mr. Truss and Mr. Gardiner were alone in the principal's office, yet at the same time these are hardly proper expressions to be used by a principal to his subordinate where the subordinate was drawing his superior officer's attention to matters which he thought should be rectified.

Charge eleven.

"On one occasion Mr. Gardiner found two boys in
 "the laundry, where they should not be; he struck one
 "knocked him down, and attempted to kick the other;
 "the next morning in the music hall before all the
 "pupils he referred to the incident in gross and
 "improper language".

It appears from the evidence that two boys visited the laundry department and were talking to the laundresses. They had only been in the laundry a few minutes when the principal came in and ordered them out, and Mr. Gardiner struck one of the boys, as he says, a slap with his open hand, and made an attempt to strike the other, but the boy dodged and got beyond his reach. Mr Gardiner's action in this respect can hardly be considered discreet. It would have been more dignified to have reprimanded the boys in camera. I have in the preceding charge mentioned the reference made to this incident the following morning at roll-call.

In connection with this charge, I find that there is no proper system for inflicting punishment in the school. There is evidence that Mr. Gardiner whilst angry administered punishment to McBride, (a blind pupil) by striking him on the mouth with the back of his hand, and on one occasion the blow was hard enough to cause the pupil's lips to bleed. There is also evidence that Mr. Roney, a teacher in the Institution, handled some of the boys very roughly--such as seizing them by the neck, choking them, and tossing them up and down on a bench and in one instance this teacher dragged a boy down stairs very roughly whilst holding him by the back of the neck. Complaints were made to Mr. Gardiner of this treatment but were not regarded, and no action taken to prevent a repetition thereof.

Charge Twelve.

"He has allowed the industrial work of the
 "Institution, over which Mr. Truss formerly presided

"to become extinct; he assigned no one to the shop, "made out no time table, and although neglecting "this branch of the Institution he provided no "substitute for such work whereby the pupils could "gain a livelihood after leaving the Institution".

Mr. Gardiner took charge of the Institution in 1903, and claims that the industrial branch over which Mr. Truss then presided had practically become extinct, that the pupils had found out there was no money in doing this kind of work, that Mr. Truss had not the ability or will to teach willow work, and was lazy and neglectful of his duties. Mr. Truss denies this. There is evidence that from the year 1897 to the year 1903 the industrial branch of the Institution did not receive from Mr. Truss the attention which it deserved.

Mr. Truss was Instructor for thirty years before Mr. Gardiner took charge, and it is quite apparent from the evidence that latterly, as one would expect, he lacked the aggressiveness necessary to make his department a success.

There appears to have been friction between Mr. Truss and Mr. Gardiner; Mr. Gardiner made no attempt to assist Mr. Truss in his work, assigned no boys to him for instruction, did not allot any time for the pupils to receive instruction from him, although Mr. Truss complained.

It further appears that this state of things went on until there were only four pupils in Mr. Truss's class, and he became disheartened. Mr. Gardiner says that he came to the conclusion that as long as Mr. Truss remained in the Institution there was no chance of improving the industrial branch, and that it would be impossible to get rid of Mr. Truss until after a change of Government. Mr. Truss says that when the change of Government did take place in 1905, Mr. Gardiner suggested to him that he had better resign, as he might be dismissed on account of his past partizanship in politics, that if he would resign, he (Gardiner) would

endeavor to get the Government to make him a retiring allowance; that accordingly he concluded to adopt Mr. Gardiner's suggestion, and asked the principal to prepare a letter of resignation, which he did, and got Mr. Truss to sign it; that subsequently his resignation was accepted by the Department, and he was given a considerable sum of money by the Government, and on the thirtieth day of June, 1905, Mr. Truss left the Institution. Since his departure nobody has been engaged in his stead, although at the present time, according to Mr. Gardiner's evidence, there are nineteen pupils who should be receiving instruction in this class of industrial work. Willow work is a very important industry, and the pupils should receive instruction therein as it is one of the purposes for which this Institution was founded.

Mr. Raymond in his evidence states that from 1873 to 1877 there were thirty five men who learned willow work in the Institution, most of whom were capable of earning a livelihood thereby, after they left the Institution. The abolition of this department is a serious loss, not only to the pupils, but to those who have learned the industry and who are now depending as heretofore upon the Institution to supply them with willow to carry on this occupation and earn a livelihood thereby, and thus relieve the public from maintaining them. There is now no person engaged who can teach willow work. Mr. Gardiner has not heretofore taken much interest in this kind of instruction. Cane-seating is taught by the carpenter (Mr Lambdon) who has never had any training in teaching the blind, and is not qualified to teach willow work or cane-seating.

Charge Thirteen.

"The principal allowed eight or nine pupils
 "not entitled to vote to register and vote at the
 "Provincial elections in 1905. These same and

"other pupils were allowed to attend political
"meetings; they were canvassed by Reform workers,
"and driven around the city by said workers, who
"treated them to cigars and refreshment, and these
"pupils were allowed to go to the polls attended
"by Reform workers, during school hours".

Much evidence was taken upon this serious charge. Mr. Gardiner claims that he did not act the part of a partizan in the election of 1905, but remained strictly neutral, and neither did nor permitted anything that he should have refrained from or hindered. Mr. Truss on the contrary claims that it was improper to allow pupils of this Institution who were being maintained at the expense of the public to vote at elections, and that they had never been permitted to do so on any other occasion.

It appears from the evidence that one S. Percy Davies, who was a prominent worker for Mr. Preston in the Liberal interests during the election of 1905, and who acted as scrutineer at the polls, called on Mr. J. B. Wilson, Chief Engineer of the Institution, and in the course of the interview got from him a list of the pupils that he could there canvass. A residence is provided for Mr. Wilson on the Institution grounds, known as "The Lodge", and it was here that the interview took place between Mr. Wilson and Mr. Davies; it subsequently appears by the evidence that Mr. Davies made an appointment by telephone with one John Gray, who was a relative of Davies, to visit the Institute and canvass; that he subsequently visited the Institution and saw some of the boys who were entitled to vote, and canvassed them; that he usually was accustomed to walk right into the building, having free ingress and regress thereto, without any obstacle being put in his way. It also appears by the evidence that William E. Preston, a son of the present member for South Brant, took a prominent part in the election

of 1905; that he was partly instrumental in procuring some of the blind boys to be registered as voters; that he went to the Institution, took some of them to the Court House and had them registered; that he did not get permission from the principal to enter the building, but walked straight in, saw Mr. Gardiner, discussed the political views of the pupils, but Mr. Gardiner declined to give any information as to whether they should register or not, or whether they were entitled to register or not; that Mr. Gardiner did not object to his taking the blind pupils to be registered; that he came up several times thereafter, but never saw Mr. Gardiner on any of his later visits, although he may have passed him in the hall; that whilst in the Institute he visited the engine room, and saw Mr. Wilson and Mr. McIntyre, the Engineer and Assistant Engineer respectively. He admits that he saw the notice on the front door, as follows;

"NOTICE TO VISITORS".

"Visiting days, Monday, Friday; Hours of Admission,
 "10:00 to 12:00 A. M. and 1:30 to 4:00 P. M. One
 "stroke on the bell is the signal to the Visiting
 "Attendant. Please Ring."

When asked for an explanation as to how he had the assurance to walk into this Institution without consulting Mr. Gardiner, his answer was that he thought it better that Mr. Gardiner should not be concerned in the matter. He says that Mr. Gardiner never opposed his doing so, nor expressed any opposition to his taking the boys down to be registered. Subsequently it appears by the evidence that a political meeting was being held in the City of Brantford, which was addressed by Mr. Aylesworth and others; that said Preston and Davies attended at the Institution by appointment by telephone with a pupil therein, and made arrangements to take the pupils to the meeting mentioned; that on the night of the 23rd of January, 1905, these two gentlemen

attended at the Institution with a van, and between seven and eight o'clock in the evening took about twenty of the blind pupils to the Aylesworth meeting; that ~~when~~ they drove up with the van they found the pupils all waiting for them, and that on the way to the meeting the blind pupils were treated to cigars; that at the meeting some of these blind boys were introduced to the candidate Mr. Preston and to others, and those of them who had votes were canvassed for their votes; that after the meeting the boys were driven around the city in the van, to give the workers an opportunity to canvass them, and that they returned to the Institution about midnight, cheering for Mr. Preston, which cheering the principal admits he heard, and were received by the night-watchman, whose duty it was to report every morning in writing to the principal, on a form provided for that purpose, the names of all pupils out after ten o'clock at night. On examining the reports for the month of January I found that the nightwatchman did report for the 23rd of January (the night in question) stating that he went on duty at 6:00 p. m., and left duty at 7:00 a. m. of the 24th, and that two of the servants returned to the Institution at 11:30 p. m. Mr. Gardiner does not appear to have asked the nightwatchman for any explanation of his omission to report the twenty boys who did not return until midnight.

Mr. Gardiner attended the Aylesworth meeting himself, and saw the blind pupils there. He admits that these pupils got his permission to attend that political meeting. He says they also got permission to go to the "Gamey" meeting, which was held previously, but that the boys were there of their own accord, and were not in charge of any political workers.

I find that Mr. Gardiner had knowledge that these pupils were in charge of political workers at the meeting.

He says he did not see any impropriety in their registration or voting. It seems that it is not the custom in the Institution to allow strangers to walk in and out whenever they see fit, without ringing the bell. Mr. Gardiner says it has only happened on two or three occasions and mentions the case of one man who came in very finely dressed, in a frock coat and silk hat, and when asked what he was doing there, he said he was just looking around. Mr. Gardiner's reply was "that this was no public street."

It appears that they have a reception room in the Institution for the purpose of enabling the pupils to interview strangers who call to see them.

It is a singular coincidence that Messrs. Preston and Davies should have had the freedom of the Institution without apparently any interference with their peregrinations.

On the morning of the election, according to the evidence, Mr. Davies and Mr. Preston and other political workers in the interests of Mr. T. H. Preston, by arrangement with the pupils, attended at the Institution between eight and nine o'clock with conveyances for the purpose of taking the pupils to vote.

Whilst these conveyances were at the front door of the Institution, Mr. Gardiner announced at roll call that those boys who intended to vote should go at once and do so, and come back direct to their work, that they must not loiter at the polls, and that a voter who held off until late in the day would be suspected of waiting for money, and that as to how they voted was none of his business, although on a former occasion one of the pupils

states that he was told to vote in the interests of the Institution. This statement however, is denied by Mr. Gardiner.

Shortly after this announcement by Mr. Gardiner these boys were taken from the Institution in the rigs provided for that purpose, and were driven to the polls and their votes were openly polled by the returning officer in charge of the poll.

I find on this charge that the principal gave permission to pupils to register and vote at the Provincial Elections in 1905, and that pupils were allowed to attend political meetings without being accompanied by any of the teachers, and without any enquiry being made by the principal as to who was to take charge of them at such meetings.

I further find that Messrs. Preston and Davies, Liberal workers, were improperly allowed to enter the Institution and canvass the pupils. I further find that the pupils were driven around the city by the Liberal workers, who treated them to cigars and refreshment.

I further find that the pupils were allowed to go to the polls attended by Liberal workers during school hours. The school closes early in the afternoon, and there was ample opportunity for these students to have gone to the polls and voted of their own free will, free from influence and without any interference.

I further find that whilst Mr. Gardiner did not actively assist the Liberal workers in the election of 1905, yet his action in permitting Liberal workers to canvass the pupils in the Institution, granting liberty to the pupils to attend and register as voters, and to contest appeals made against their registration, and finally by directing the pupils to go and vote, when the Liberal rigs were at the door ready to carry them to the polls, materially assisted the Liberal Party in attaining the ends which they desired to achieve.

Charge Fourteen.

"Mr. Gardiner allowed paid servants
 "of the Institution to take part in political
 "work, to canvass voters, to take voters to the
 "polls, and to assist in canvassing and driving
 "blind pupils about the city as before mentioned.
 "He also himself canvassed some of the pupils.

I find that there is no evidence to support this charge. There is evidence that Alexander McIntyre, the Assistant Engineer, took an active part in the political campaign of 1905 in Brantford, but there is no evidence that Mr. Gardiner gave him permission to do so, nor is there any evidence that Mr. Gardiner personally canvassed any of the pupils.

Charge Fifteen.

"Under the principal's direction, a
 "cement sidewalk was constructed and laid down
 "in such a way as to be dangerous to the pupils.
 "When shown the danger the principal persisted
 "in going on with the work. Subsequently one
 "of the blind girls fell on the walk and broke
 "her leg in two places. The walk still remains
 "in its dangerous condition".

I find that there is no evidence to support this charge. The work was not done under Mr. Gardiner's supervision, and no girl fell on the walk and broke her leg as stated in the above charge.

Charge Sixteen.

"That the principal sold a team well
 "fitted for the work of the Institution for an
 "inadequate price, and purchased another team,

"unsuitable, and contrary to the certificate of
"the Veterinary Surgeon employed to examine
"them." This last team ran away, injured one
"of the employees and injured themselves, so that
"a large veterinary and medical bill had to be
"incurred. The team was subsequently traded
"for another team, at a large expense to the
"Institution.

Mr. Gardiner's evidence on this charge is that he sold the first team because he did not think they were suitable for the farm, for \$50.00, on the 9th of February, 1904; that he purchased another team on the 27th of February, 1904, for \$315.00; that this team ran away and injured Mr. Burney, who was in charge of them, and in consequence thereof he exchanged them on the 28th of January, 1905, for another team, and \$100.00 paid in addition thereto out of the "Unaccountable Funds of the Institution".

On this charge Dr. Joseph Porter, a Veterinary Surgeon at Brantford, was called. He deposes that the team came to him in charge of Willetts, the foreman of the farm, for examination, that he examined the team closely and prepared a certificate in writing signed by him for each horse. In the certificate he stated that one horse had a small Curb on the hind limb, and the right hip slightly lower than the left and that the other horse had a small bony enlargement on the left side of the hock joint. Dr. Porter swore that after giving the certificate to Mr. Willetts to take to Mr. Gardiner, he rang up Mr. Gardiner by telephone and enquired for what purpose the horses were required, and was informed by Mr. Gardiner that what was wanted was a "general purpose team". He then advised Mr.

Gardiner that the team would not be suitable. He also said that the team was bad-tempered, bad acting and wild, and that they pretty nearly ran away with the man who was driving them at the time he was making his inspection; that shortly afterwards he was called in to treat one of the horses that had run away, and found that it had cut itself so badly that he had to put in stitches, and that he did not consider the team worth more than \$200.00; he also says that he told Willitts the foreman of the farm that the team would not suit. Mr. Burney, one of the farm hands, was called as a witness, and stated that he nearly lost his life when the team ran away; he was injured both internally and externally, and that he was laid up for two months, and that his salary was paid to him in the meantime. One of the horses was a kicker, and the other a run-away. Mr. Gardiner admits a conversation with Dr. Porter over the telephone, but he does not recollect Dr. Porter stating that the team were not suitable.

Mr. A. J. Davies was called, and he swore that he heard Dr. Porter the veterinary surgeon tell Mr. Gardiner over the telephone that the team would not suit. He also says that he saw the man who sold the team to Mr. Gardiner, and that he said to him, "Well, I sold that team, after all 'your knockin'", and he replied "What team?"; "That team up 'at the Blind Institute"; "I asked him how he did it"; "Oh, 'easy enough, I sugared the old man for \$25.00"; I asked him "What old man?"; "That man that went up with me"; "Do 'you mean Willitts?"; "the old man that went up with me".

Mr. Davies swears that the first team Mr. Gardiner sold for \$50.00 was worth \$100.00. Davies is a horse

dealer, and he is of opinion that the team were capable of doing the farm work and that there was no necessity to make a change.

On the whole, this charge is substantially proved, and the Government sustained a loss of at least \$150.00, besides the loss of wages of one man for two months, and loss of his assistance.

Charge Seventeen.

"When the principal's residence was "re-furnished, the old furniture was sold "at a sacrifice and at grossly inadequate "figures".

I find on the evidence that the furniture formerly used by Mr. Dymond was disposed of by public auction after due advertising. Some of it was no doubt sold at very low prices, but such is the case at all auction sales.

I think the sale was properly advertised and conducted, and that the charge has not been proven.

Charge Eighteen.

"There is an entire lack of moral "influence in the Institution."

This charge is practically covered by some of the preceding charges.

CHARGES

AGAINST

A. L. McINTYRE.

I now propose to take up the charges against A. L. McIntyre, the Assistant Engineer, namely,

"That the said A. L. McIntyre, since his "appointment to his present position, has shown "himself to be a partizan. On the day of the "Local Elections in 1905 he was driving in a

"rig, and assisting in bringing voters to the
 "polls at a time when he should have been
 "attending to his duties. He attended
 "political meetings, and Reform Committee
 "meetings; he also attended a political
 "banquet, and did other acts of partizanship".

I find that this charge is substantially true, with the exception of that portion of the charges which alleges that he attended political meetings. I accept the evidence of four witnesses, who swore positively that they saw him engaged on the morning of election day assisting in bringing voters to the polls. McIntyre endeavored to prove an alibi, by showing that it might have been his brother, and not he. In this I think he entirely failed. I find that he did assist in the elections by canvassing for votes in the Liberal interest.

CHARGES

AGAINST

JAS. B. WILSON.

I now proceed to a consideration of the charges made against James B. Wilson, the Engineer of the Institution, namely;

"That he was guilty of partizanship
 "by furnishing information to Reform
 "workers, and assisting them in local
 "elections".

In Mr. S. P. Davies evidence when first examined he stated that he got a list of the pupils whom he could canvass, from Mr. Wilson. Mr. Wilson in his evidence denies giving the list, but he admits going over a list with Davies. He says Davies came to his house without being invited; that he did not give any information to Davies, nor assist in the election in any way.

I am of opinion that this charge has not been established, and that Wilson did not voluntarily give any information to the Reform workers, or assist in the election of 1905.

Having disposed of these charges, I now deal with the General Administration of the Institution, taking up first,

LITERARY WORK.

GENERAL

ADMINISTRATION. The teachers in this branch are Mr. Walter Wickens, the Assistant Principal, Mr. Roney, and three female teachers -- the Misses Gillen, Walsh and Lee. The number of boys attending the Institution at the time of my inspection was fifty-nine, the number of girls fifty-seven.

The pupils are taught in three divisions, each teacher instructing the pupils in all the subjects taught in his or her division, as the case may be.

LITERARY

WORK. Teachers are supplied with an ordinary "Wage-Earner's Time Book" instead of the usual class book now used in all well regulated schools. As a consequence, the teachers do not keep a record of the number of marks, progress and success of each pupil in each particular subject, and cannot report to the principal at stated periods the standing of each pupil in his or her class, and promotion of the pupil is thus retarded. Only a few of the books prescribed by the Minister of Education for use in the Public Schools are used. The pupils are not adequately furnished with Readers, in point or embossed print, which is necessary in my opinion to educate the pupils in the art of reading. There are no competitive examinations of the pupils during the session which

commences on the 30th day of September and ends on the 20th day of June of the following year, only one examination being made by the teacher in charge of her class at the end of the session. During the session the pupils do not receive merit marks for their lessons in the same manner adopted in all well regulated schools; in fact, the teachers are not provided with books for this purpose, and consequently each pupil has no definite standing in his or her class. There is therefore, no competitive incentive amongst the pupils to do aggressive work, and no regular system of inspection by the principal, of each class, he relying almost entirely on the voluntary reports made to him from time to time by the teachers.

As a result, the bright, intelligent and industrious students make no better progress than the slow and indifferent ones.

Two of the teachers have been engaged in the Institution, teaching, for upwards of twenty years, and one for upwards of thirty years. It must be expected that these teachers who have been so long in the service have naturally lost much of their vitality, which is necessary to put life and aggressiveness into their work.

The whole system of literary instruction pursued by the present principal, I find upon the evidence and on personal inspection unsatisfactory, and it could be very much improved upon.

Very few of the pupils who have been educated in this Institution have been successful in any literary enterprise afterwards followed by them.

On the whole, the teachers are industrious and painstaking with the pupils. The method and system are at fault. Miss Lee has a kindergarten class, which she has taught with much success, and her work is very commendable.

THE MUSICAL BRANCH

was in charge (at the time of this investigation) of a male teacher, Mr. Humphries, assisted by two female teachers, the Misses Moore and Harrington. Altogether there are fifty-seven pupils being instructed in music.

MUSICAL BRANCH.

Only a limited number of the pupils who are taking the musical course prescribed by this Institution will be capable of teaching music, or filling positions as organists; the rest of these pupils lack the qualifications to become musicians. The principal has not prescribed any thorough method or system of instruction. There is no inspection made of the musical branch whatever, each teacher being responsible for the class in his or her charge, and periodical examinations are not held, as should be in any live and progressive school. The pupils are not taught in such a manner as to enable them to teach seeing persons "staff notation". They should be furnished with the requisite sheet music transcribed into point print, so that the pupils, without the assistance of a teacher, might with such music devote more time to practice. Some years ago, the pupils were instructed to play on brass and stringed instruments. This line of instruction has ceased. Some of the present pupils possess excellent qualifications, and should become musicians of much merit. There is no teacher of vocal music in this Institution, but some of the teachers of instrumental music have devoted some attention to vocal

instruction, and I heard a chorus of about thirty boys and girls sing with good effect very difficult music, and there are some male voices of such excellent quality that with little training would enable their possessors to earn a living as soloists.

I find that the music teachers are very capable, and devoted to their work, and if the pupils have not achieved success it is not from any neglect on the part of the teachers.

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THE INDUSTRIAL BRANCH

THE INDUSTRIAL BRANCH.

of this Institution was carried on with great success by Mr. Hunter, and by his successor Mr. Dymond, with Mr. Truss as Instructor in willow basket making and cane-seating. Upon the present principal taking charge of the Institution he found that the Instructor in willow work had been so many years engaged in the Institution in this particular vocation that the work had become somewhat tedious and tiresome. Mr Truss resigned his position in May, 1905, and from that time up to the present there has been no instructor in charge of this branch of the work. Many of the pupils who were instructed by Mr. Truss after leaving the Institution have earned a livelihood thereby, thus relieving the public from the responsibility of maintaining them. The discontinuance of this branch of the work has been detrimental to the interests of those who formerly learned the willow work here. Formerly each pupil in willow work after completing his course was given an outfit, and subsequently obtained his supply of willow from the Institution, paying therefor its actual cost. Latterly

there has been such a limited supply of willow on hand that this arrangement could not be carried out. This is very much to be regretted. At the present time there are some nineteen or twenty boys anxious to be instructed in willow work, and who are unfitted for any other vocation. Broom and brush making is not taught.

The principal seems to have lost sight of the express object for which the Institution was incorporated, namely, "the educating and imparting instruction in some manual art to blind persons".

Many of the blind have made and are still making a fairly good living at willow work.

P_I_A_N_O_ _T_U_N_I_N_G_.

At the time of my enquiry there were eighteen men and boys learning this occupation. This department has been neglected. The instructor, Mr. Usher, as appears by the evidence was engaged to give his whole time and attention to the teaching of piano tuning. For some time past he has only devoted two hours and fifty minutes each day to the eighteen pupils, or an average of about seven to eight minutes to each pupil daily. The instruction imparted during these short intervals is wholly insufficient. The learners are not taught to use the tuning fork or other instruments, nor to put strings into the pianos, or make simple repairs; neither are they taught to take out the front portions of the piano and lay them aside without marking the case. The omission to teach these two acts on the part of the teachers has prevented quite a few of the blind who have left the Institution from obtaining employment as piano tuners. There is no proper system, nor fixed hours for practice; no definite time allotted to each pupil for instruction,

PIANO

TUNING.

and no inspection, and no report to the principal as to progress. There are many who are practically losing their time trying to learn piano tuning, and who will never be capable of tuning a piano. They lack the keen musical ear necessary for piano tuning. Yet those very boys would make very successful willow workers.

BEAD WORK, KNITTING, CROCHETING, SEWING,
AND HAMMOCK MAKING,

are taught in the Institution by the Misses Loveys, Haycock, Cronk and Burke.

For the purpose of enabling the pupils to earn a livelihood, knitting and hammock making are the most important. This part of the work receives good attention and the instructors are capable. Some golf jackets exhibited to me by Miss Haycock were beautifully made.

Nevertheless, a systematic course of instruction, compulsory and effective, has not been inaugurated.

DOMESTIC SCIENCE

was taken up by Miss Lee, and she endeavored to teach some of the blind girls in this art, but from her evidence it is quite apparent that a totally blind pupil cannot acquire any knowledge in domestic science which would be of much use to her.

FARMING

has been carried on on forty acres of the grounds

BEAD
WORK
KNITTING,
etc.

DOMESTIC
SCIENCE.

belonging to the Institution, for many years, by hired help exclusively, as the blind cannot assist in any way. On examination into the receipts and expenses of the farm for the past ten years, I find that the expenditure during that time exceeded the receipts in the sum of \$3,231.80, without taking into consideration interest on capital account, nor the employment of two or three men all the year round in connection with the farm, whose services might be dispensed with during the winter season. At the time of my inspection there were four horses in the stable doing practically nothing, their legs were swollen for want of work or exercise. The land is wholly unfitted for agricultural purposes, being very light, sandy soil, without fertility, and farming this land requires a large quantity of agricultural implements to be kept in repair. The farming is a serious loss to the Government annually.

The buying and selling of cattle and hogs is not permissible under the Statute incorporating the school, yet this has been carried on for years.

MAIN BUILDINGS AND OUT-BUILDINGS.

I inspected these very carefully. The two dormitories for the boys and girls are poorly ventilated; in fact, the air was so impure the morning I made my inspection that it was hardly bearable, and must be very injurious to the health of the pupils. The windows are so constructed that they cannot be used for ventilation purposes. The dormitories are not provided with furniture of any kind, save and except single cots and beds. The only place the children have to sit down on retiring is on their trunks or on their beds. Sufficient clothes-closets for taking care of the pupils' clothing

MAIN
BUILDINGS
AND
OUT -
BUILDINGS.

are not provided, although a carpenter is employed the year round, who could have provided these necessary conveniences.

The Institution is heated by steam pressure (40 pounds pressure is required) consequently the air in the dormitories during the day attains a very high temperature, and the fire not being kept up during the night the temperature goes down towards morning, and the dormitories then are very cold, and the floors being unprovided with any rugs, mats or carpets of any description is the cause of sickness through colds thus contracted.

No reception room is provided for the fifty-nine girl pupils, and after the close of school for the day in cold weather they are forced to stay inside the Institution and wander around the halls, or sit on their beds in the dormitories. If the blind girls and boys were provided with material, they could make rag mats which when placed alongside the cots would be a source of comfort to them. No proper reading room is provided for any of the children - - boys or girls.

The floors of some of the school-rooms, and the treads on the stair-cases, are badly in need of repair, more particularly the floors, loose boards and knots protruding, which the carpenter Mr. Lambdon could and should have attended to as a matter of necessity.

MAIN
BUILDING.

The large windows in the tower, which now present a shabby and untidy appearance, require new fittings and curtains.

The building is well provided with lavatories, which are kept in a fairly clean condition.

The interior of the building is in need of general repair.

THE OUT-BUILDINGS

are in fairly good state of repair. A new ice-house has been provided.

OUT BUILDINGS.

The refrigerator in the building might be kept in cleaner condition.

HEALTH OF THE PUPILS.

The children are not robust; many of them are pale-faced and emaciated. I attribute this to lack of physical culture and hygiene. No fixed time has been specially set apart for the pupils taking out-door exercise. A daily walk is not insisted upon. The pupils are not as strong, healthy and vigorous looking as they should be. They lack color in their faces, and I attribute the cause to this lack of proper physical training and out-door exercise, want of oxygen, together with the fact that the dormitories are in a most unsanitary condition for want of proper ventilation and care.

HEALTH OF PUPILS.

Development of the physique of the boys and girls is the foundation of good health and mental force. Neither the boys or girls are taken for good sharp walks daily (weather permitting), no definite directions are given to the teachers resident in the Institution to take the pupils for walks at a stated time daily; the gymnasium is not made sufficient use of, although fully equipped with all the newest devices for giving the boys and girls exercise. On inspection I found that all these devices had been placed in such positions as to only accord their usefulness to men and not to boys; in other words, they

PHYSICAL EXERCISE.

were not readily accessible to the small boys, by being placed too high from the floor. More interest should be taken in the development of the children's health. Proper physical instruction is not given, and the supervisor does not do efficient work.

PUPILS IN ATTENDANCE.

PUPILS
IN
ATTENDANCE.

On examination of the Assistant-Principal, he stated that at the present time there are twenty-two pupils in the Institution, namely, ten boys and twelve girls, who could read a letter, and could be educated at home or by a private teacher without the use of embossed type or point print. These pupils are not being instructed in point print, their sight being too good. On a personal inspection of two divisions, in answer to my question as to how many could see me, I was surprised to see twelve stand up, who could discern the color of my necktie. In answer to the further question as to how many of them could read a newspaper or a letter from home eight responded, or in all one third of the class. In another class, consisting of twenty-eight boys and girls, thirteen of them could see partly and five could see to read. I did not examine every class, but my own observation, confirmed by Mr. Wickens, is that quite a number of the pupils have fairly good sight, and might be educated elsewhere, nevertheless the pupils who can partly see are of great assistance to those who are absolutely blind, as guides, and these partly-seeing pupils may be a little too sanguine regarding their sight.

The Statute expressly limits the instruction of the blind to persons who are domiciled in the Province, nevertheless there are ten pupils from other provinces

NON-RESIDENT
PUPILS.

attending the Institution, who contribute \$150.00 per year towards the expense of their education, whereas the actual cost of educating and maintaining these pupils, exclusive of providing the Institution, and interest on capital account, is the sum of \$312.00 per annum. The Province of Ontario is thus losing annually by the education of pupils domiciled outside the province upwards of \$1,500.00, and this has been going on for many years.

THE MAIN BUILDING

MAIN
BUILDING.

including the workshop and laundry, is heated by high pressure steam. It requires, according to the evidence, forty pounds of steam to effectually heat the building, and unless the fires are kept up constantly night and day, as soon as the steam gauge shows the pressure below twenty pounds the building becomes cold, partially on account of the conduit pipes being too small to carry the steam, thus causing resistance.

The quantity of coal consumed in heating this building is consequently much higher than it should be. The coal account averages about \$3,500.00 per annum, whereas if the building were heated by a system of low pressure, which would not require more than ten pounds pressure of steam to carry the heat to all extremities, a large amount of fuel could be saved. There are too many men employed in connection with the heating of the building. One engineer and two firemen should be ample to take care of the heating, whereas at present there are two engineers and two firemen. No fireman is in charge of the three furnaces and boilers during the night. It is extremely dangerous to the lives of those in the

Institution that this is permitted.

The laundry and culinary departments are kept in a fairly tidy condition, and both are well equipped.

FIRE PROTECTION.

FIRE PROTECTION.

There are no fire escapes on the building, of any description. If a fire occurred at say two o'clock in the morning, and the building were enveloped in flames, there would be no possibility of escape for the blind children. There are six of the women engaged at the Institution who sleep in the building, and two of the men. The rooms occupied by each of the attendants are closed at night, so that they would have very little opportunity of assisting the blind children to escape, if the fire had got pretty well under headway. There is in the hall in which the dormitories are situate, hydrants, with a limited quantity of hose attached to each, but the only persons who could possibly use them would be the two male teachers on the boys side, and the nightwatchman. The blind would have to be led out of the building individually, in order to save their lives. There appears to have been no inspection made of the wiring for electric lighting since it was put into the building. The principal has never instituted Fire Drill, as has been done in the Public Schools and the Deaf and Dumb Institute at Belleville.

The nightwatchman is presumed to go around the building every hour; still this is not in my opinion a sufficient protection against fire.

BLIND POPULATION.

I find on examining the statistics that at three ten-year periods there were in Ontario the following numbers of blind persons;

1881	- - - - -	1,102
1891	- - - - -	1,227
1901	- - - - -	1,063

These statistics would go to show that the blind are decreasing in this Province. According to the last census there were 1,102 blind persons, their ages being as follows;

Under 5 years of age	- - - - -	17
" 9 do.	- - - - -	18
" 19 do.	- - - - -	49
" 20 do.	- - - - -	179
" 40 do.	- - - - -	246
" 60 do.	- - - - -	368
" 80 do. and over	- - - - -	187

The age and number of pupils attending the Institution are as follows;

Girls and Women;

From 5 to 9 years of age	10
9 to 19 "	"	31
19 to 32 "	"	<u>16</u>
		57

Boys and Men:

From 5 to 9 years of age	7
9 to 19 "	"	42
19 to 32 "	"	<u>10</u>

I give the foregoing data in order that you may determine as to the advisability of extending the Institution.

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With the foregoing observations, I make the following

RECOMMENDATIONS.

LITERARY

First.

I would recommend that the Misses Gillen and Walsh be retired from the list of teachers. Both these ladies have been excellent teachers; industrious, and indefatigable in their efforts. Both have been teachers for upwards of twenty-five years. Neither of them now possess robust health.

BRANCH.

On account of their advanced years and state of health, I recommend that a pension be given to each, instead of a bonus. From enquiry made at the Institution I find that the compensation which these two teachers have received has been inadequate to enable them to lay aside sufficient means to maintain them, should their lives be spared for some years to come. On account of their having very little business instinct, if a bonus were given in lieu of a pension it might be invested in some foolish speculation, and lost, whereas a pension would ensure them permanent support. These pensions should not be assignable under any circumstances, and should be sufficient to enable them to maintain and clothe themselves.

In the place of these teachers, I recommend the appointment of young, enthusiastic and successful teachers, holding certificates. There are now some very efficient female teachers in the Institution, but the salaries paid

to them are wholly inadequate to permit of their providing for themselves if they live to an advanced age. I recommend an increase of salary to such of the teachers as have been doing good work under a poor system.

Secondly: The same books as are taught in the Public Schools should so far as practicable be adopted for use in this Institution. Proper class books should be kept, such as are used in the Model School, and in fact in every well administered college, and a fixed time for the study of each subject should be allotted. The Fory system of instruction as in the Model School, as far as practicable, should be adopted. In order to have a fair estimate of the progress and standing of pupils in a class, it is necessary to apply regular weekly tests in each subject, and to keep a definite record for future reference by the teacher and the Principal. Teaching lessons need not be marked - only review tests and work already taught. It will be found convenient to use tablet sheets for a week or a month and then transfer the results in each subject to a register - say once a week or once a month.

It is very desirable that there should be no confusion between conduct marks and those assigned for proficiency in the various subjects of the course of study.

There should also be kept by the Principal a final register, in which an estimate of each pupil of the class, in every subject, is regularly entered, say at the end of each session. This estimate should be made from the class registers referred to above. This final register should be specially ruled and large enough to last for at least ten years, so that it will constitute a permanent record of all students attending during the period. It will be found invaluable for future reference.

When the final examinations are held at the end of the session, the results in each subject should also be recorded in this final register, as supplementary to the teacher's estimate. The principal should make a daily inspection of each class, and inspect the record kept by each teacher. The teachers should avail themselves of the best and newest methods of educational instruction.

The scope of instruction should be much enlarged upon and made broad and comprehensive. Its aim should be to provide for blind children and youths precisely such an education as their seeing brothers and sisters can secure in the Public Schools, beginning with the elementary studies in the primary grade, and continuing to the very threshold of the Collegiate Institute. Blind children appreciate a good education, and a liberal education is their great need; they are ready and willing to learn almost any subject. Greater efforts should be put forth in the cultivation of their minds. Every side of the pupil's nature should be developed, and particularly the love of industry, ability to do, and a strong desire for independence and self-reliance encouraged. Book-keeping should be taught, and the pupils instructed in the use of a Journal, Ledger, Day Book, Cash Book, etc., and in the carrying on of commission business and banking. Many of the pupils who have left the Institution have taken up business successfully, such as the tea business, and I am advised by these pupils that they are deficient in business knowledge. An occasional lecture should be given on the transaction of business, by some person qualified for this purpose, to include the use and preparation of mercantile paper, such as notes, bills of exchange, cheques, etc. Type-writing should be given a more prominent place, so that

the pupil can carry on correspondence. I have received typewritten communications from former blind pupils of the Institution which would do credit to sighted persons.

The principal should make a personal inspection of each class daily. This has not been done in the past.

The hours of literary instruction should be from 9:30 a/m. until 12:00 noon, and from 1:00 p/m to 2:00 p.m, with an intermission of half an hour in the morning; for industrial work, from 2:30 p. m. to 5:00 p. m. should be allotted for systematic instruction.

The creation of a taste for the best kind of literature should be encouraged, by inducing the pupils to make use of the library, which is well equipped for this purpose.

I also recommend that the Principal of the Collegiate Institute at Brantford make a careful examination of the pupils at Christmas and at the end of each session, and report to the Minister of Education thereon.

THE INDUSTRIAL BRANCH.

Along with the literary education there should be carried out a proper and methodical system of manual training, which tends to improve the mental powers of the pupils, as well as their physical condition.

A competent instructor in willow and cane work should be engaged. Broom, brush and whisk making, tea blending and tasting, should be introduced and carried on. First and foremost among all stands the time-honored broom trade, and this should be taken up at once. It has long been recognized that the blind man can produce this article just as well as his sight-seeing competitor, and at a sufficiently rapid rate to be moderately remunerative, and the article when manufactured is far superior to the machine-made broom.

WILLOW
WORK
BROOM
and
BRUSH
MAKING.

There is ample accomodation in the large workshop for all these industries.

In the past, practically no attention has been given to teaching the male pupils any of the above industries. The female pupils are now doing good work, but could do better under a more systematic course of instruction. The capacity of each pupil for industrial work should be closely watched by the principal, and that class of work for which the pupil shows the greatest tendency and capacity to engage in should be encouraged.

Hours for instruction should be allotted for each pupil. Proper class books should be kept, merit marks should be given for work done and reports made to the principal at least monthly of the progress of each student in every industry he is engaged in.

In connection with the Industrial Branch, (which I think should receive as much attention as literary work) the manufactured goods produced by the pupils should be disposed of through the medium of a commission house, to be selected by the Department, upon such terms and conditions as may be arranged.

I do not deem it advisable to encourage the making of the Institution into an Industrial Home for the Blind. If a Home is required, I would recommend that it be carried on elsewhere than in Brantford. The operating of an Industrial Home for the Blind in connection with this Institution, upon the same grounds would, in my opinion, be very detrimental to the interests of the pupils being educated therein; their future occupations would be too vividly brought before them, and there would be a lack of inspiration and incentive on the part of the pupil to avoid what might commonly be called the "poor-house".

PIANO-TUNING.

This branch requires reorganization. It should be placed under the charge of the Musical Director. The pupil requires to have a good knowledge of music, a keen perceptive ear, and a natural taste for music. The Musical Director should determine what pupils are fitted for this class of education. The tuning instructor should devote his whole time and attention to his pupils' instruction. Classes should be organized, according to the respective capacities of the pupils. A fixed time for practice and instruction should be allotted to each pupil, merit marks given, and competition encouraged, and examination held at least twice during the session. Only such persons as are capable of becoming good practical piano tuners should be permitted to participate in this branch.

PIANO
TUNING.INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC.

INSTRUMENTAL I recommend engagement of a competent male instructor, who should be called "Musical Director". He should have charge of the work of this department, determine those pupils who are qualified to be instructed in piano music, and assign the pupils to their various teachers, fix the hours for instruction and practice, and each teacher should report to him the non-attendance of the pupils for instruction, and neglect of practice, and he in turn should finally report at least once a month to the principal the progress of each pupil.

MUSIC

The instruction should be of such character as to enable the pupil to teach seeing persons. "Staff Notation" should be taught. This is not done at present. The pupils

should transcribe their music from dictation into point print.

I am firmly of the opinion that very many of the blind can be educated in Music to such a degree as to enable them to compete with their sighted friends, and thus earn their livelihood. Several of the present students are very intelligent, and possess very good abilities; they are enthusiastic in their work, and are really excellent students, whom it is a pleasure to teach. Piano tuning, vocal and instrumental music, are especially adapted to their unfortunate condition. The keen musical ear necessary for piano tuning is of far more importance than keen sight, and most of the highest authorities acknowledge that the blind possess a truer and keener ear than a sighted person. What applies to piano tuning applies more or less to instrumental and vocal music. An acute ear and a good memory are two great essentials to any musician. The Blind possess these two factors to a greater degree than many sighted people.

Two other essentials necessary for a musician are (1) intelligence to understand music as an art; and (2) a technique that will enable one to perform the composition on piano or organ. The blind who have a certain degree of musical ability possess these two important qualifications. The four essentials, then, to a musician, are (1) a keen musical ear; (2) a good memory; (3) intelligence; and (4) finger dexterity. All these a person may have without the possession of eyesight; therefore I think it is perfectly clear that music, more than any other subject, is adapted to the requirements of the blind as a bread-earning profession.

A thorough method and system in study, with some definite purpose in view, is absolutely needed for any degree of success. If a student is best adapted for a piano tuner, he should receive a thorough course of instruction in tuning, at the end of which a high standard of examination should be demanded, and if he is successful in passing his examination, a certificate should be granted which would be a guarantee of his ability and training as a first-class piano tuner. If this were adopted, the public would soon recognize the worth of a blind tuner. This department needs thorough organization, and more instruments are needed for the purposes of practice.

Where a student shows special talent for the organ or piano, or solo singing, he should receive a thorough graded course in his particular gifts, always keeping in mind the one important point, i. e., that their education and training must be conducted upon such lines as will enable them to compete with sighted musicians.

The blind should have a thorough knowledge of the seeing type of music, and those preparing themselves for teachers of music should not only be acquainted with the different books of studies used by sighted teachers, but should have a duplicate of such studies in the Point Print. This system would at once enable the blind teacher to successfully teach a sighted pupil, the teacher having a duplicate copy in Point Print of the studies the pupil is playing.

Blind pupils preparing as teachers of music should also receive a special normal training in the art of teaching a sighted pupil, and practical experience should be

given them under the supervision of the Musical Director so that they might be properly qualified to teach as soon as they leave the Institution.

The Musical Director, in order to help the graduates when striving to secure a teaching connection, should keep in touch with them, and graduates should have the privilege of writing him at any time and asking any questions that may assist them in their work; such a system would be of inestimable value to the blind teachers, and also would keep the Institution in direct touch with the graduates.

Students studying the organ should receive special instruction as to church work and choir training. Organ students while in residence should be so educated that they could give an organ recital, with the assistance of a solo singer. The Musical Director should pay particular attention to the preparation of a programme for organists and solo singers that would be at once a credit to the performers and to the Institution, and he (the Musical Director) should correspond with the various churches throughout the Province for the purpose of securing engagements for the blind performers. That the recitals would be a success I have not the slightest doubt; sympathy for the blind, as well as the merits of the recitals, would appeal strongly to the people. This would also prove an excellent means of bringing before the public the work of the Institution, as well as the opportunity of the blind musicians coming in direct contact with church authorities.

A Music Dictator, one who reads the seeing type of music to the blind, so that they (the blind) may take it down in Point Print, is absolutely necessary to the Music Department of the Institution. It frequently happens that

the teacher dictates a little music to the student; this the student soon memorizes and plays, and no matter how enthusiastic he may be, or how anxious he is to work, he cannot possibly do anything until the next lesson is given him by the teacher, consequently the student is prevented from doing further practice and study, and much valuable time is wasted.

I would suggest a teacher of piano, with a knowledge of the violin, for such a position. At present there are no violin teachers in connection with the school.

The Music Department requires reorganizing; at present there is no uniformity of purpose, the teachers having their own individual method. There are four in this department, including the Instructor in piano tuning, and to my surprise a Faculty meeting to discuss the working of the Department had never been held.

The adult blind who are making a special study of music should be separate from the children in the Institution, and they should receive a course of special training in social etiquette, which would assist them in their work when they leave the school.

Playing on stringed instruments other than the piano should be encouraged, especially where any student exhibits a qualification or particular genius for the violin, guitar, or any other musical instrument.

An organ installed in the Institution, at the time of my inspection, was being used most irregularly by the students. This organ should be under the direction of the Musical Instructor; fixed hours for instruction ought to be arranged, and rules and regulations framed by the Director

and approved by the Principal regarding its use, and those regulations should be strictly enforced.

The formation of an orchestra could easily be accomplished. The blind possess natural talent for music, and the use of musical instruments.

VOCAL MUSIC.

VOCAL MUSIC.

An instructor in Vocal Music should be engaged, and a thorough system of instruction enforced. There are many excellent naturally good voices in the Institution at present, which if properly trained would fit the pupil for solo singing, especially in church work.

More money is invested in the Musical Department than any other department; it is of the most importance to the Institution as a bread-earner to the blind, as well as an educator in culture to all, and yet the Musical Director receives less salary than the Assistant Principal, the Bursar, the Trades Instructor, or even the engineer in charge of the heating, and the musical staff receive less than other teachers, and have longer hours. It is not surprising that the work has not been conducted to the best advantage of the blind.

The Music Department should be presided over by the best man obtainable, one who is familiar with the most modern methods of teaching. He should also be possessed of good business ability.

I would also recommend the purchase of music, both seeing type and Point Print, so that the Institution may possess a complete musical library. At present the library is in a most deplorable condition. I am having a catalogue taken of what is on hand, and am endeavoring to place same

under order and system.

A SUMMER NORMAL COURSE.

The Government could give invaluable assistance to the blind by having a short summer normal course of two weeks at the Institution for all its ex-graduates; this would bring the ex-students together, and give them practical help in their work.

THE DINING TABLE

should be provided with the usual porcelain or china dinner and tea services, and proper table linen, and especially napkins, and the children instructed in table etiquette. At present the dinner and tea service is common graniteware, similar to that used in the common gaols, and there is no linen of any kind provided.

PHYSICAL HEALTH OF THE PUPILS.

PHYSICAL HEALTH OF THE PUPILS.

It cannot be expected that pupils who have to eat, sleep and be taught in the same building, can have good health. The main building has never afforded sufficient accomodation for the work carried on therein; no money has been spent for thirty two years in its reparation and extension, except in some minor details.

I recommend the erection of two dormitories, for the male and female pupils, one at each end of the main building, and connected therewith by a passageway, only one storey high, so that in case of fire the pupils could escape out of the windows. The building should be constructed of plain brick, with metal or slate roofs. Each dormitory should accomodate 100 pupils. This would enable the Principal to convert the present dormitories into recreation rooms, and give other much needed accomodation. In any

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event, the present building should be inspected by a competent architect, and a thorough system of ventilation installed.

Large verandahs should also be constructed on each side of the tower, so that the pupils could get fresh air and exercise in inclement weather. These verandahs need not be of expensive construction, and they are a great necessity.

The health of the pupils should be given much greater attention. The Principal should insist upon the teachers who reside in the Institution taking walks daily with the pupils, at least once a day, for a fixed time, say half an hour (weather permitting) and this walk should be taken in the morning, before the studies are taken up for the day. In the afternoon there ought to be a fixed hour for recreation, and each teacher should supervise his or her respective classes, and see that this recreation hour is well used by the pupils. I strongly recommend the engagement of a duly qualified male Physical Instructor, and the formation of a Cadet Corps. Drill exercise would help to make the blind pupils self-reliant, and overcome the hesitancy now so apparent in their walk.

FIRE PROTECTION.

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Fire escapes should immediately be constructed in the most appropriate places, and fire drill should be inaugurated by the Principal, and effectively carried out. I cannot too strongly urge immediate action in this respect.

HEATING OF THE BUILDING.

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The present heating system was placed in the building about thirty years ago. Three boilers are in use, and are in fairly good state of repair, but the whole system should be reorganized, and changed from a high

pressure system to a direct-indirect system, with independent steam circuit mains in the basement, so arranged that steam can be turned on each separately without affecting the others, and almost any part of the entire building may be heated without heating the remainder. This system would effect a large saving in coal, and the premises would be more easily heated, and this arrangement is so simple in construction that anyone of ordinary intelligence can manage it. I refer you for further particulars of this system of heating to The Western Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, Edgewood Park, Pennsylvania.

HEATING
OF
THE
BUILDING. The quantity of hard coal required annually to heat these premises is 475 tons, besides some 80 tons of soft coal. The Confederation Life Building in Toronto, which is a much larger building, is heated with 460 tons of soft coal, equivalent to about 320 tons of hard coal. St. Andrew's College, which is a larger institution than that in Brantford, is heated with a little more than half the hard coal required at the latter school. An annual saving of many hundreds of dollars could be effected by adopting the system above mentioned, and an equal temperature by both day and night could be secured.

RETRENCHMENT IN EXPENDITURE.

RETRENCHMENT
IN
EXPENDITURE.

in the carrying on of the Institution can be accomplished as follows;

- First, (a) Discontinue all farming operations, and rent what was formerly used as the farm;
- (b) Dispense with the services of all farm hands, save and except the gardener;
- (c) Dispense with all farming implements and

utensils, save and except such as may be necessary to work a small kitchen garden;

(d) Dispose of all horses and conveyances, save and except one good stout, strong horse. There is no necessity whatever for retaining carriage horses. The street cars run almost to the doors of the Institution, and even when pupils are taken to and from the trains hired vehicles have been heretofore called in for this purpose;

(e) Dispense with the office of Bursar, and employ in lieu thereof a competent stenographer, one having a knowledge of book-keeping, who can fulfil the Bursar's duties as well as assist the Principal in his correspondence. The number of pupils attending the Institution does not, in my opinion, warrant the employment of a Bursar at \$1,100.00 per annum, free house, light and fuel. The services of such a stenographer can be had for \$600.00 per annum;

(f) Dispense with the services of a salaried medical attendant, and employ a physician when required. Serious cases could be sent to the hospital, which is in close proximity to the Institution;

(g) Dispense with the services of one of the engineers, and engage firemen only from the first of October to the first of May in each year;

(h) Pupils from outside Provinces are now admitted at \$150.00 per session. The actual cost of maintenance of the Institution, without allowing anything on capital account, is about \$312.00 per pupil. There are now ten pupils from outside Provinces attending the Institution; they should pay their full share of the cost of maintenance; this would mean an increase of revenue of at least \$1,500.00 per annum.

FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS.

The discipline of the pupils should receive greater

care and attention. They should not be allowed to visit the city free from restraint, and church attendance should be compulsory, and I would recommend that instead of allowing them to attend the city churches in the evening, that a service of praise should be held in the assembly hall of the Institution; the Musical Director could take charge of the music, and an arrangement made (if possible) with the pastors of the different churches in Brantford to conduct the services.

I further recommend that measures should be put on foot and provision made for following up pupils after they have left the school, for the purpose of assisting them to secure employment and of otherwise helping them. No statistics are available to show the number of self-supporting graduates of the school, or the character of their occupations. Such facts would throw light upon the whole subject of the early training of the blind.

I further recommend that the name of the Institution be changed from "The Ontario Institution for the Education of the Blind", to that of "The Ontario School for the Blind"; also that measures be adopted for the purpose of advertising the school, and giving it greater publicity, using the press and local authorities as mediums for that purpose.

I would further recommend that a Board, consisting of the Mayor of the City of Brantford, the Senior High School Principal, and the Senior County Judge, be appointed as an Advisory Board to assist in the management and carrying on of this Institution, and report from time to time to the Minister of Education in regard to any matter relating thereto.

In order to carry out the above recommendations, the Acts incorporating this Institution, and the Amending Act passed recently, should be amended.

Efforts should also be made to induce philanthropic persons of means to interest themselves in the work of the Institution, and more particularly the people of Brantford.

Accompanying this Report is the evidence taken on the charges against the Principal, covering 436 pages, and likewise the evidence taken on the charges against McIntyre and Wilson, and on the General Administration of the Institution, covering 458 pages.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. Russell



